

# India's place in world balance of power

By M. J. Audi

Like all politics, international politics is a struggle for power. Power is the stuff of politics. Politics without power is like an orchestra without a conductor. Power means ability of the State to achieve its goals. None can ignore a powerful State. Its presence is keenly felt even when it is physically absent from the scene of action. All States are sovereign but all States are not powerful. Sovereignty opens the doors of international organisations to the State. Power alone decides what respect it will command in global politics. The States that command respect in the world are always few and far between. Many States live as the minions of Great Powers. Be they human beings or institutions, it is the nature of minions to be servile. Consequently, sycophancy of Great Powers is an essential condition for the survival of States which are not powerful. Those who govern weak States defend their object sycophancy as astute diplomacy. Like a chanticleer the cock who boasted that his crowing makes the sun rise, these sycophants flatter themselves as master-diplomats for the crumbs thrown at them by their patron-states.

## Driving forces

Struggle for power and quest for peace are the driving forces of international politics. Concept of Balance of Power is designed to reconcile these irreconcilables. As James Bryce put it "If sovereignty is the mast to which the sails of modern state craft are attached, balance of power is the wind which drives the hessel over the stormy seas of international politics." In simple words, Balance of Power means such an "equilibrium" in power equations amongst the sovereign States as will prevent any one of them from becoming too strong to dominate others. Balance of Power never tolerates any State lording over the world.

Concept of Balance of Power originated in ancient India. There is a fascinating elucidation of mechanics of Balance of Power in Chanayka's *Arthashastra*, world's first and foremost scientific work on Political Science. It was fully applied on the European stage from 1648 when the Treaty of Westphalia created several sovereign states in Europe.

Game of Balance of Power is an exclusive privilege of only powerful states of the day. It treats the states as weights in the pair of scales and the holder of the balance tips the scales. Holder of the balance is the balancer. The balancer is the friend or foe of all depending upon their weightage. As Palmerston pinpointed: "while the holder of the balance has no permanent friends,

it has no permanent enemies either; it has only permanent interest of maintaining the balance of power itself." The balancer controls the game from beginning to the end. He decides who shall win and who shall lose. No wonder, the balancer becomes the "arbiter of events" in international politics.

From 1648 to 1945 international politics was essentially European politics with Britain playing the role of balancer and Britain played it well. As Crowe told the House of Commons in 1907, the British policy was to preserve the balance on the Continent." by throwing her weight now in this scale and now in that but ever on the side opposed to the strongest single State or group at a given time." Thereafter, Europe ceased to be the centre of gravity of world politics. Second World War was followed by notorious Cold War and world politics became the exclusive monopoly of only two superpowers. They were the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Former European powers became satellite states of one or other superpowers. Most pitiable was the position of Britain. Second World War made Britain a third rate power. Today's Great Britain is literally Little England as could be seen from John Bull's prostrations before Uncle Sam, his cousin across the Atlantic. World Politics between 1945 and 1992 was basically bipolar without any balancer. New sovereign states of Asia and Africa, under the leadership of India, came together as Non-Aligned Movement. But NAM never was the balancer between the superpowers. The phase of *detente* revealed the exact position of NAM in international politics. NAM was no better than a middleman between negotiators of marriage. As soon as marriage was finalised, middleman was discarded and despised by both parties.

Everlasting contribution of former Soviet Union to the progress of mankind is the liquidation of European Colonialism from Asia and Africa and restoration of true independence to some Latin American states on the American Continent. Under the so-called Monroe Doctrine, the United States treats all Latin American countries as its backyard and hence they have no right to pursue political and economic policies independent of the United States. They should be happy as the protectorates of the United States.

*Might is Right* is the cardinal principal of the Western way of life. This supremacy of force in Western culture, Darwin philosophised, is the Survival of the fittest. Powerful Napoleon treated Popes and Emperors with utmost contempt and

showed them their proper places. Whenever Napoleon in power sneezed, Europe caught a cold. Same Napoleon, but without power, became a pathetic creature and pathetically died at St. Helena. In our times this might is at the disposal of the United States of America which is only one superpower in 1992. The President of the United States is the final authority to use that might. So far the United States knows only three Presidents having attributes of sound statesman. They were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. In his excellent book *American Commonwealth*, James Bryce discussed *Why Great Men Are Not Elected Presidents of United States*. In the hands of sagacious statesman power becomes a blessing and produces prosperity to the whole of mankind. In the hands of pedestrian politicians power becomes a curse and inflicts horrors, miseries and sorrows on innocent humanity as could be seen from performance of several American Presidents in Vietnam and many Latin American countries.

## Appetite

With the brutal destruction of Iraq in 1990 followed by disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, American appetite has become sharper. It has been well said that appetite sharpens with eating. The United States is no more interested in making the world safe for democracy. She is eager to establish immediately a "New World Order" which is euphemism for *Global Dictatorship of United States of America*. Her first calculated step in that direction is imposition of sanctions against India and Russia in May 1992 for Russia's sale of boosted rocket engines to India.

Objective is to nip in the bud sure and certain emergence of India as one of the greatest powers of the world. America argues that the sale violates so-called Missile Technology Control Regime. (MTCR) By now, Yeltsin must have learnt that according to the capitalist democracies "Liberty" always means "Slavery" of supreme capitalist state which, in our times, is the United States of America. The United States also sermonises on the benefits of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) sponsored by itself. Intellectuals on her pay-roll orchestrate that NPT is the best concrete step towards nuclear disarmament. What is the real objective of NPT? It provides for free and full proliferation of nuclear weapons only by the United States and its chosen satellites and denies nuclear weapons to countries like India. It is

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indeed a strange logic that nuclear weapons are perfectly safe only in the hands of the United States of America and they are extremely dangerous in the hands of countries disliked by America. It reminds one of Aesop's Wolf.

The rulers of India have called American action as "arm-twisting" and thereby confirmed poor quality of political analysis by the wise-men of South Block. American action is a direct and open challenge to the sovereignty of India and Russia. It is like an unwanted intruder poking a dirty nose in the affairs of others. No self-respecting sovereign state tolerates such intrusions. But no sovereign state can protect its national honour or preserve its self-respect without power. In the prevailing circumstances of the world only the Balance of Power can frustrate the hegemonic designs of every state. Only China and India have requisite potentiality to save the world from the dictatorship of America.

How can India convert potentiality into reality? First and foremost necessity is to make India economically strong. Military strength of every state is a by-product of its economic strength. No country can become economically powerful when its budgets are tutored by so-called International Monetary Fund and World Bank which are factually the appendages of the United States. No Country can become an economic power when its economy is offered on a platter to the vultures glorified as multinationals which are

also the creatures of the United States.

## Paradox

Her size, location, climate, resources and population can easily make India one of the greatest powers of the world. Nature has been very generous to India. Shallow statesmanship so far deprives India of her natural position in world affairs. What a paradox that a country with first-rate natural advantages throws only third-rate leadership! Swarajya India is an excellent example of linkage between the leadership of pigmies and devaluation of the Nation. How can a country become economically strong when its wealth is squandered on parasitic and luxurious living for the few? How can a nation become a financial force when its wealth is deposited not in the treasury of the nation but in the secret accounts in the Swiss banks? How can a nation become an economic power when its economic planning becomes a paradise for the corrupt, smugglers and swindlers? Forty-five years of Swarajya teaches Indians that self-seeking and nation-building never go together. Self-seekers are not and cannot be the nation-builders. Careerists and opportunists are not and cannot be true nationalists. As long as these maladies continue, India will continue to suffer such humiliations. It remains to be seen when people of India will awake and put their house in order. Then and only then India will take her natural place in World Balance of Power and make handsome contributions to the progress and prosperity of mankind.